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77 SEOUL 9571

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ACTION FA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAF-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 JUSE-00 /073 W
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
BY/TSEN NLC BAFlek DATE 2/17/50

P R 110851Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7525
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD
E.O. 11652: N A
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS COVERS PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR
REF: SEOUL 9479 (DTG 090840Z NOV 77)

SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS FRIDAY HAS NO CONFIRMED DETAILS OF THURSDAY'S OBETING ON PAK CASE BUT GOVERNMENT PAPER HINTS ROKG PUSHING FOR LIMITED LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOVMEBER 11, MONRING CHOSON ILBO RAN REUTERS-HAPTONG ITEM FROM WASHINGTON QUOTING ASST ATTORNEY GENERAL CIVILETTI AS SAYING 11/9 THAT, IF PAK AGREES TO TESTIFY IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMUNITY, HE MIGHT FIRST BE QUESTIONED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. SEOUL SINMUN ALSO RAN FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS ITEM, THE FIRST MENTION OF COMINICAN REPUBLIC IN KOREAN PRESS, IN CONNECTION WITH PAK AFFAIR.

2. KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS MOSTLY RAN BRIEF FRONT-PAGE

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STORIES SAYING THAT FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN AND AMBASSADOR HAD MET FOR 50 MINUTES ON PAK TONG-SON CASE NOVEMBER 10, BUT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD REFUSED TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS OF MEETING. IN MOST DETAILED STORY, OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN (AFTERNOON PAPER) REPORTED IT "HAS BECOME KNOWN" THAT TWO SIDES COULD NOT RECONCILE THEIR POSITIONS--ROK'S THAT PAK TONG-SON BE QUESTIONED IN SEOUL AND THAT TWO COUNTRIES CONCLUDE AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE, LIMITED TO THIS ONE CASE, SO THAT RESULTS OF QUESTIONING COULD BE USED IN U.S. COURTS; AND U.S.'S THAT PAK BE QUESTIONED IN A THIRD COUNTRY AND UTLIMATELY TESTIFY IN U.S. COURSTS. ARTICLE SPECULATED THAT OUTLINES OF COMPROMISE MIGHT BECOME KNOWN IN NEXT WEEK OR SO. ARTICLE QUOTES "A SOURCE" AS DENYING AS "UNTRUE" FOREIGN REPORTS THAT ROK AND U.S. HAD AGREED ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS SITE FOR QUESTIONING PAK AND AS SAYING THAT, EVEN IF PAK SAYS HE WANTS TO GO TO A THIRD COUNTRY, THE ROKG'S POSITION IS THAT "THE CITIZENS' UNDERSTANDING" IS NECESSARY. COMMENT: THIS IS SECOND PRESS INDICATION IN TWO DAYS, AND STRONGEST

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YET, THAT ROKG IS PLUMPING FOR SOME SORT OF MUTUAL LEAGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. MEANING OF STATEMENT ABOUT "CITIZENS' UNDERSTANDING" IS UNCLEAR, BUT COULD BE ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER THIS POSITION. END COMMENT.

3. TWO OTHER AFTERNOON PAPERS SPECULATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROGRESS IN THURSDAY'S TALKS.

4. SEVERAL AFTERNOON PAPERS RAN TONGYANG ITEM FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING WASHINGTON STAR QUOTED CIVILETTI AS SAYING 11/10 THAT HE EPXECTED "NEWEST PROPOSAL" FROM ROKG IN "ONE OR TWO DAYS" AND AS EMPHASIZING THAT ANY AGREEMENT WITH USG MUST CONTAIN PLEDGE THAT PAK WILL TESTIFY IN U.S. COURSTS.

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